

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00963 091526Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CU-02 SS-15 INR-07 INRE-00

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O 091353Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2840

CONFIDENTIAL SOFIA 0963

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BU (ZHIVKOVA, LYUDMILLA)
SUBJECT: ZHIVKOVA VISIT

FOR EUR DEPUTY ASST SEC ARMITAGE FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: A) STATE 104082; B) STATE 104081

1. DELIGHTED THAT DETAILS OF ZHIVKOVA VISIT ARE FALLING
INTO PLACE AND EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP. BELIEVE
THAT NANCY HANKS WILL BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE AS HOST FOR
ZHIVKOVA (REF A), AND EQUALLY VERY PLEASED THAT OUR IDEA OF
SIGNING THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT IN PRESENCE OF CABINET
LEVEL OFFICIAL HAS BEEN ACCEPTED (REF B). IF YOU COULD
SOMEHOW GET WORD HERE BEFORE MY MEETING AT 11 AM TOMORROW
(0900 GMT) CONFIRMING THESE DETAILS, OUR CUP WOULD RUN OVER.

2. I HAVE JUST ONE QUALM, AND THAT CONCERNS THE PROSPECTIVE
WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH MRS MONDALE. THIS IS OF COURSE
VERY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF MRS MONDALE'S CONCERN WITH THE
ROLE OF WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY, BUT FROM THE BULGARIAN POINT
OF VIEW IT MAY LOOK A BIT ODD THAT MRS ZHIVKOVA, WHO
AFTER ALL IS NOT THE WIFE OF MR ZHIVKOV BUT A WOMAN HOLDING
A CABINET POSITION, IS TO BE RECEIVED BY SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT
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HOLD -- AS FAR AS I KNOW -- ANY OFFICIAL POSITION EXCEPT
THAT OF BEING THE CHARMING AND POLITICALLY ACTIVE WIFE OF
ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

3. LET US THINK FOR A MOMENT HOW IT WOULD LOOK IF SECRETARY
KREPS WERE TO COME HERE AND TO BE RECEIVED NOT BY ONE OF THE
RANKING MEMBERS OF THE BULGARIAN EXECUTIVE BUT BY THE WIFE

OF ONE OF THEM, HOWEVER HIGH HER STATUS. I AM SURE THIS ASPECT HAS BEEN KEPT IN MIND, BUT IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR MRS ZHIVKOVA TO CALL ON A RANKING WOMAN OFFICE-HOLDER, THIS WOULD BE PREFERABLE POLITICALLY AND MUCH MORE PLAUSIBLE. HOWEVER, I DON'T THINK THE BULGARIANS WOULD BE UNHAPPY ABOUT SCHEDULING THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH MRS MONDALE; THEY WOULD BE HONORED -- BUT ALSO A LITTLE PUZZLED.

4. I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE IS ANY HOPE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT SPENDING AT LEAST A MINUTE WITH MRS ZHIVKOVA? (IF HE SAID SOMETHING TO HER ABOUT THE MAREV CASE, THAT WOULD REALLY REVERBERATE HERE.) IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR MRS. ZHIVKOVA TO SEE SECRETARY KREPS, I THINK THAT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO THE MEETING WITH MRS MONDALE, EVEN THOUGH THE LATTER WOULD BE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SOFIA00963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770162-0999
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770578/aaaacpmx.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7574c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 77 STATE 104082, 77 STATE 104081
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2595094
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZHIVKOVA VISIT FOR EUR DEPUTY ASST SEC ARMITAGE FROM AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BU, US, (ZHIVKOVA, LYUDMILA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7574c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009